AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method for producing a dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles ~~according to claim 8,~~ which comprises a first step of synthesizing cuprous oxide ultrafine particles having an average primary particle diameter of not more than 100 nm in a first solvent and simultaneously therewith obtaining a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles having a secondary particle diameter of not less than 0.2 μm, a second step of separating the soft agglomerate obtained at the first step from the first solvent, and a third step of redispersing the soft agglomerate separated at the second step in a second solvent to obtain a dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles,

wherein the dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles obtained at the third step is in the colloidal state and the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles are suspended in the dispersion.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 9, wherein the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles have an average secondary particle diameter of less than 200 nm in the dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles which is in the colloidal state.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 8, wherein the second solvent contains a dispersing agent for the cuprous oxide ultrafine particles.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 11, wherein the dispersing agent is a polyhydric alcohol.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 12, wherein the polyhydric alcohol has a carbon number of not more

than 10.

14-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A method for producing cuprous oxide ultrafine particles ~~of claim 16~~ having an average primary particle diameter of not more than 100 nm and an average secondary particle diameter of less than 0.2 μm, which comprises obtaining cuprous oxide ultrafine particles which are in the colloidal state by dispersing the soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles.

21-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles ~~of claim 1~~ having an average primary particle diameter of not more than 100 nm and an average secondary particle diameter of not less than 0.2 μm,

which comprises reducing a cuprous carboxyl compound of copper acetate with hydrazine and/or a hydrazine derivative in an amount of 0.4-5.0 moles based on 1 mole of the cuprous carboxyl compound in an aqueous solution containing not less than 10% by weight of water to produce cuprous oxide ultrafine particles, wherein the aqueous solution further comprises at least one organic compound selected from the group consisting of an alcohol compound, ether compound, ester compound and amide compound.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles ~~according to claim 30 which further comprises~~ having an average primary particle diameter of not more than 100 nm and an average secondary particle diameter of not less than 0.2 μm, which comprises reducing a cuprous carboxyl compound with hydrazine and/or a hydrazine derivative in an amount of 0.4-5.0 moles based on 1 mole of the cuprous carboxyl

compound in an aqueous solution containing not less than 10% by weight of water to produce cuprous oxide ultrafine particles, and further adding a basic compound for reducing the copper carboxyl compound with hydrazine and/or a hydrazine derivative.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 30 or 32, wherein hydrazine and/or a hydrazine derivative are dissolved in the solution at a concentration higher than 20% by weight and the solution is added to the reaction solution.

35. (Currently amended) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles ~~of claim 1~~ having an average primary particle diameter of not more than 100 nm and an average secondary particle diameter of not less than 0.2 μm, which comprises obtaining a colloidal dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles by heating and reducing at least one copper compound selected from the group consisting of a copper carboxyl compound, a copper alkoxy compound and copper diketonate compound at a temperature of not lower than 160°C in diethylene glycol and forming a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles by further heating the colloidal dispersion.

36. (Currently amended) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles ~~of claim 1~~ having an average primary particle diameter of not more than 100 nm and an average secondary particle diameter of not less than 0.2 μm, which comprises obtaining a colloidal dispersion of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles by heating and reducing at least one copper compound selected from the group consisting of a copper carboxyl compound, a copper alkoxy compound and copper diketonate compound at a temperature of not lower than 160°C in diethylene glycol and then adding to the dispersion an agglomerating agent for cuprous oxide ultrafine particles.

37. (Currently amended) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles ~~of claim 1~~ having an average primary particle diameter of not more than 100 nm and an average secondary particle diameter of not less than 0.2 μm, which comprises heating and reducing at least one copper compound selected from the group consisting of a copper carboxyl compound, a copper alkoxy compound and copper diketonate compound at a temperature of not lower than 160°C in diethylene glycol and simultaneously adding to the diethylene glycol an agglomerating agent for cuprous oxide ultrafine particles, which is soluble in diethylene glycol at the reaction temperature.

38. (Currently amended) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 36, wherein the agglomerating agent is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of ~~monoalcohol compounds, ether compounds, ester compound, nitrile compounds, amide compounds and imide compounds~~ a monoalcohol compound, ether compound, ester compound, nitrile compound, amide compound and imide compound.

39. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a soft agglomerate of cuprous oxide ultrafine particles according to claim 35, wherein diethylene glycol contains water in an amount of not more than 30 moles based on 1 mole of the copper compound.